

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR FOX VALLEY WISCONSIN COUNTIES

April 2002



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Unemployment Rates Decline From February, But Up From Last Year

During March, the seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in the five counties and the Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah MSA declined in all of the areas. The decline was primarily the result of seasonal factors in the area, rather than an improvement in the area's economy. This is reflected when comparing the area's unemployment rate with one year ago levels.

All of the area's are above last year's levels. With the region as a whole averaging an increased of 1.8 of a percentage point increase over last year. Green Lake County experienced the greatest increase in its rate with an increase of 2.5 of a percentage point to 9.5 percent. This was also the highest rate in the region. The Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah MSA, which is comprised of Calumet, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties, had the lowest rate in the region at 5.9 percent.

The rates were down over the month due to increases in employment increases in all of the counties within the region. Overall employment was up 700 from February to 318,300. Employment growth was offset to some extent by almost equal growth in the area's labor force. The labor rose over the month by 500 to 339,900 workers.

Although all of the counties in the area experienced increased unemployment rates over the last year, employment has also increased in all of the counties during the past

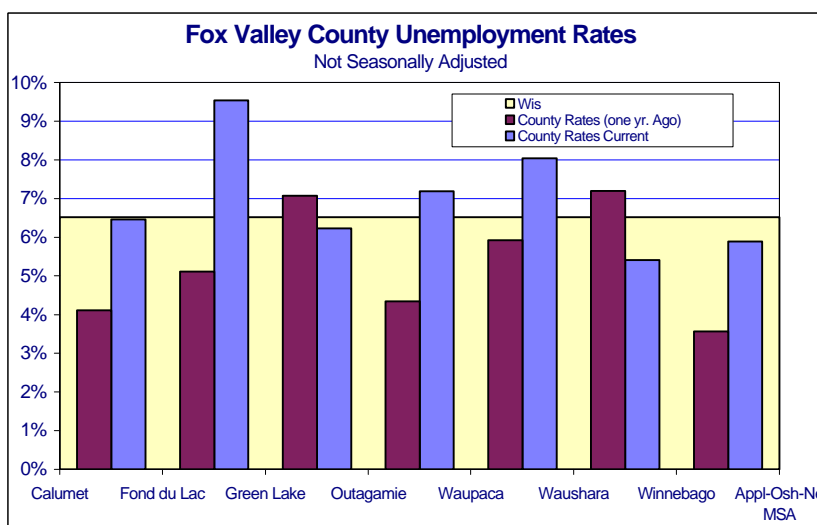
twelve months. However this has been offset by more rapid growth in the number of workers in the labor force. While

the economy was hot, employment growth normally exceeded the number of workers that entered the labor force. But during the last year, this has reversed. While the economy has continued to grow and more workers are employed this year than last, the number employed has been exceeded by the number of new entrants into the labor force.

While the number of employed increased by 700 over the month, the number of jobs in the region increased by 1,800. (This is possible, as some individuals may hold more than one job, and others may commute into the area so are not counted as employed residents in the region.) Nearly half of the increase in jobs was in the construction industry which was up nearly 800. This is typical for employment to increase during the spring time. Retail trade was the other major growth industry over the month, increasing by 500 over the month.

Although industry employment increased over the month, it is well below last year. Overall, employment was down 1,700 from last year. The hardest hit industry was manufacturing which lost

4,500 jobs from last March. This has been offset by increases in other sectors, tempering the total loss in jobs to 1,700.



Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)				
	Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah MSA	Wisconsin	United States	
			(000s)	
March-2002				
Civilian Labor Force	233,000	3,075,700	142,000	
Employment	221,400	2,900,400	133,900	
Unemployment	11,600	175,200	8,100	
Unemployment rate	5.0%	5.7%	5.7%	
February-2002 Change				
Civilian Labor Force	(600)	(4,700)	(200)	
Employment	(600)	(1,600)	(400)	
Unemployment	-	(3,200)	200	
Unemployment rate	0.0%	-0.1%	0.2%	
March-2001 Change				
Civilian Labor Force	4,600	89,100	100	
Employment	700	46,200	(1,900)	
Unemployment	3,900	42,700	2,100	
Unemployment rate	1.6%	1.3%	1.4%	

Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

The seasonally adjusted rate for the Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah MSA was unchanged from February to March. The rate for the month remained at 5.0 percent. This was an increase of 1.6 of a percentage point from last March when the MSA's rate was at 3.4 percent.

The nation's unemployment rate rose 0.2 of a percentage point to 5.7 percent, while the rate for the State of Wisconsin was

down 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.7 percent. To the north, the rate for the Green Bay MSA was 4.8 percent, down 0.1 of a percentage point from February.

For additional labor market statistics contact our website at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi>.

March-2002	App/Osh/Neenah	Fond du Lac	Green Lake	Waupaca	Waushara	Region	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force*	231,700	57,500	11,400	27,200	12,000	339,900	3,049,800
Employed	218,100	53,700	10,300	25,200	11,000	318,300	2,851,100
Unemployed	13,600	3,700	1,100	2,000	1,000	21,500	198,700
Unemployment rate(%)	5.9%	6.5%	9.5%	7.2%	8.0%	6.3%	6.5%
Total, all industries**	201,700	48,500	7,500	21,000	5,900	278,700	2,774,400
Construction & Mining	11,700	3,000	500	800	300	15,900	108,900
Manufacturing	55,200	11,800	1,700	6,100	700	74,800	563,200
Transportation & Public Utilities	9,600	2,300	300	800	300	12,900	130,000
Wholesale Trade	9,100	1,800	100	900	200	11,900	135,700
Retail Trade	34,200	9,300	1,300	3,700	1,300	48,600	490,100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	9,600	1,800	300	600	200	12,400	151,300
Services	47,900	12,600	2,100	4,200	1,500	66,700	770,300
Government	24,400	5,900	1,200	3,900	1,500	35,500	424,800
Change from previous month							
Civilian Labor Force*	-100	200	100	100	100	500	-1,700
Employed	200	200	100	100	100	700	4,300
Unemployed	-400	-100	0	0	0	-400	-5,900
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.2%	-0.1%	-0.3%	-0.1%	-0.2%
Total, all industries**	1,200	300	100	200	100	1,800	14,600
Construction & Mining	670	50	20	30	10	760	4,200
Manufacturing	-90	40	10	30	0	-20	-1,500
Transportation & Public Utilities	-40	30	10	0	0	0	700
Wholesale Trade	20	30	10	0	10	60	300
Retail Trade	310	110	40	40	20	500	4,100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	70	10	10	10	0	90	500
Services	0	50	50	30	-20	130	3,500
Government	220	10	0	30	70	250	2,700
Change from year ago							
Civilian Labor Force*	5,200	2,900	700	1,100	800	10,800	89,000
Employed	700	1,900	400	700	600	4,300	45,900
Unemployed	4,600	900	300	500	200	6,500	43,100
Unemployment rate(%)	1.9%	1.3%	2.5%	1.3%	0.8%	1.8%	1.3%
Total, all industries**	-2,900	1,100	-110	180	210	-1,700	-16,500
Construction & Mining	-60	420	10	60	30	440	-2,400
Manufacturing	-3,900	-380	-170	-40	-40	-4,500	-30,800
Transportation & Public Utilities	-160	80	-10	20	10	-70	-2,500
Wholesale Trade	160	30	-10	-30	30	150	-300
Retail Trade	90	150	-20	20	40	240	2,700
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	270	60	30	10	0	370	2,500
Services	180	570	50	0	80	790	10,400
Government	550	200	10	130	60	880	3,900

* Includes participants residing in area. ** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI
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